



A Publication of the West Jefferson United Methodist Church

West Jefferson, Ohio

JANUARY 2024

Are You Ready for the Epiphany?

by Pastor Ruth Pile

If you decide to stop by Wal-Mart or Target this afternoon, you will find that Christmas is long gone; it is now officially Valentine season. If you want, you can drive around looking at Christmas lights this evening, and while most have not been taken down yet, it is also true that many or most will not be lit up. There definitely won't be any carolers making the rounds this evening, and most all of us have taken our Christmas trees down. We'll soon celebrate (or depending on when you're reading this you already have celebrated) New Years' for goodness sakes, and we have already moved on to other things. But on the Church calendar, it is still the Christmas season!

You are all familiar with the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" – my favorite is the John Denver and the Muppets version. I can hear Miss Piggy, "5 Gooooooolldden Rings!" January 6 is the twelfth day of Christmas, which is Epiphany. Epiphany marks the visit of the Wise Men to baby Jesus.

Literally, the word "epiphany" means "showing," or "revealing." In order to be shown something, there has to be light to see, and it was the star that led the Wise Men, as they are called, to the Christ child. The visit of the Wise Men was the first revealing of Christ to the Gentiles. The Wise Men are usually there in nativity scenes, but they were not at the birth – their arrival was perhaps some months or even a year later. In fact, I know of churches with large nativity sets that will have the Wise Men somewhere down the hallway on the first Sunday of Advent, and each week they get closer until after Christmas, on the Sunday nearest Epiphany, the Wise Men make their appearance.

The visit of the Wise Men is a clear indication, right from the beginning, that Jesus is not simply a messiah for the Jews. It is a clear message that this birth holds great meaning and great hope for *all* people. When they finally found Jesus, they were filled with joy at the birth of One who might bring change and usher in a new age.

The Wise Men were filled with joy, and they worshiped. They recognized that this child was different. He was one worthy of worship. As an act of worship, they brought gifts to convey honor. Precious gifts for One who was precious.

They have followed a star and now they have a dream. Whether they all had this same dream, it does not say. In any case, there was a dream in which they were warned not to return to Herod. They took the dream seriously, and so of course they don't (after all, they are wise men!). After finding the baby, experiencing great joy, kneeling in worship and offering their finest gifts, they return home, but by another way.

This is our experience of faith. We meet Jesus, we find joy, we offer our worship and gifts, and when we do that (or perhaps *because* we have done that) we go home a different way. Oh, we may follow the same geographic route, but we have changed. Things are not the same. When we go home, things are different. *We* are different.

The beginning of the New Year might be a good time to think about going home another way. What change would you like to make? How is your relationship with Christ making a difference? How is God calling you to change? As we move into the clean slate of a new year, how will we allow our experience with Jesus to mold our lives?

Sometimes we can get so caught up in doing things the way we have always done them that we can lose sight of what we're trying to accomplish in the first place. We can forget that there are other ways, other options.

I think that somehow the sacrifice that was needed in making the long journey and in giving these extravagant gifts opened the wise men to God's revelation – made them ready for the Epiphany. It can work that way for us. When we truly give of ourselves, when we are truly seeking, we make ourselves available and are better able to perceive God's leading.

The star was not the only epiphany. The dream was an epiphany. And the greatest epiphany, the greatest revelation, was Jesus himself.

What about you? How will you be changed by this Epiphany? What is God's leading for your life this year?

Happy New Year!

Pastor Ruth



FINANCIAL NEWS ; Duane Stokes, Treasurer

General Fund 2023

	NOV	YTD
GF Income	20,008.55	142,662.27
GF Expenses	15,842.15	159,016.24
	4,166.40	-16,353.93



Dear Church Community,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZK1R>

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings!

NEW QR code! Scan to donate



Our sympathies go out to Bob Pearce on the loss of wife Bev. May God bring you great comfort and reassurance in this time of grieving.



A great big "Thank You" comes from Claudia Cox to everyone who called and sent prayers and cards. All your love has been most happily received and appreciated!



Sufficient Grace will resume packing donations and supplies on January 8th.

The wish-list items are as follows:

- Easter erasers
- Easter coloring books
- Easter pencils
- Candy
- Laundry soap pods
- Dryer sheets
- Playing cards

Thank you! SG



Thanks for Donating!

Meeting Change!

During the winter season, Al-Anon will be meeting in the Shawl Sisters room around noon.
Thank You!



**Saturday
January 13th**

5-7pm

The UM Women are hosting the annual chili sale and drive thru. Stop by for warm chili on a chilly evening!



**Saturday
January 20th**

8-10 am

WJUMC

YOUTH GROUP

*Praise & Worship. Music. Food.
Games & More!*

7th-12th grade

*Come join us on the
following evenings from
6:30-8:00pm*

-January 21

*-January 27 Winter Jam
@Schottenstein (More Info to Come)*

- February 18

- March 17

- April 14

- May 5

*See Elizabeth Johnson for
more details*

*West Jefferson UMC
36 S Center Street
West Jefferson, OH 43162*



HELP WANTED

CHURCH **CUSTODIAN**

**Starting in
January**

...the church will need a new custodian. Tasks would include vacuuming and mopping floors as well as other general cleaning tasks inside the church building. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, contact the church office:

wjumc@att.net

614/879-8130

Thank you!

I N C L E M E N T Weather Policy

As we continue on during this winter season, always remember to use discretion regarding travel to worship. We will cancel for **Level 3 Snow Emergencies** and of course will always send out a mass email and phone call for any changes.

Services are posted weekly on YouTube. You can access them at the church Facebook page and on our website: wjumc.org.

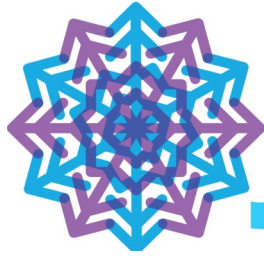
God bless and stay safe!



Winter can be a long and lonely season for us all! Take a moment and remember all our homebound friends and family members with an uplifting card or phone call.

Frank & Dixie Adkins	81 Mary Street	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Sue & Ed Braithwaite	681 W Jeff Kiousville Rd, PO Box 42	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Claudia Cox	531 Brandon Street	London, OH 43140
Geoff DeLong	71 Jones Street	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Bob Pearce	77 S Chester Street	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Gene & Barb Ellinger	169 Kings Way	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Charles & Connie Harbage	49 N Franklin Street	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Bob & Leona Harper	880 Crescent Dr	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Irene Kelley	4160 Trueman Blvd, Apt 301	Hilliard, OH 43026
Helen Norris	517 Brookdale Dr	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Wanda Parks	744 Brookdale Dr	West Jefferson, OH 43162
Howard Southall	The Ashford of Grove City 3197 SW Blvd	Grove City, OH 43123
Irene Yates	9429 Roberts Rd, SE	West Jefferson, OH 43162

Upcoming
Events



JANUARY 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	<p>1 Suff. Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>2 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a</p>	<p>3 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p</p>		<p>5</p>	<p>6 Food Pantry 10-11a Kathy Anderson Baby Shower 12p</p>
<p>7 Worship 10a</p> 	<p>8 Suff. Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>9 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a</p>	<p>10 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Food Pantry 10-11a UMW Chili Sale & Drive-Thru 5-7p</p>
<p>14 Worship 10a</p> 	<p>15 Suff. Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>16 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a</p>	<p>17 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p</p>	<p>18 Girl Scouts Service Unit 6-8p</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Community Breakfast 8-10a Food Pantry 10-11a</p>
<p>21 Worship 10a</p>	<p>22 Suff. Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p Leadship 6:30p</p>	<p>23 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a</p>	<p>24 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Food Pantry 10-11a</p>
<p>28 Worship 10a</p>	<p>29 Suff. Grace 1p Boy Scouts 6:30p</p>	<p>30 Food Pantry Set-Up 7:30a Shawl Sis 9a</p>	<p>31 Food Pantry 2-3p Al-Anon 12p Choir 7p</p>			

West Jefferson

Birthdays &
Anniversaries



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Peyton Barnhart</i>	4 <i>Connie Hanes</i>	5	6 <i>Judy Cavinee</i>
7	8	9 <i>Charles Harper</i> <i>Time and Elaine</i> <i>Hay (A)</i>	10	11 <i>Amanda Jenkins</i> <i>Colton LeMaster</i> <i>Sutton Murry</i>	12	13
14 <i>David and Judy</i> <i>Arganbright (A)</i>	15 <i>Judy Heminger</i>	16 <i>Tracy Adkins</i> <i>Nathan Sams</i> <i>Emily Thrasher</i>	17	18	19 <i>Jennifer Berry</i> <i>Angela Stokes</i>	20
21 <i>Kathy Morgan</i>	22	23 <i>Sharon Garver</i> <i>Leona Harper</i> <i>Pat O'Connors</i>	24	25	26 <i>Shane Cahill</i>	27
28 <i>Nathan Haley</i> <i>Brad Lollo</i> <i>Brad Stokes</i>	29	30	31			





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36 South Center Street

West Jefferson OH 43162

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Email: wjumc@att.net

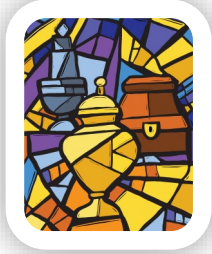
Rev. Ruth Pribe, Pastor

Email: preacherlady@aol.com

Worship 10AM

Sunday School 10AM

YouTube, Facebook, or by CD (audio only)



January 2024

